

# NO SHORTCUTS



**A report on three UK examples of HGV weight restrictions  
and their relevance to the BATS villages and the  
Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

***TMTV***

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Note; For all abbreviations and road classifications  
see Appendices Introduction 20

## Executive summary

One of NSC's overall priorities is 'To protect and enhance the quality, safety, character and diversity of North Somerset's environment and its enjoyment by present and future generations.'

(Source: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk))

- The BATS villages suffer an ongoing assault by HGVs taking shortcuts on inadequate roads between major routes.
- NSC has only one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and this was declared in Banwell on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2002.
- Several Local Authorities and County Councils in the UK have established experimental traffic orders to combat shortcutting and restrict HGVs. All these orders have now been permanently ratified and have brought substantial benefits to the areas where they have been introduced. In Stamford and Kirkby Stephen the HGV numbers have dropped by over half and in Usk there are very few HGV's now present at all.
- **TMTV** has identified a possible area where weight restrictions could prevent shortcutting HGVs in the southern part of North Somerset and proposes that NSC implements an experimental traffic order within this area to prohibit out-of-area HGVs of over 7.5t
- The weight restriction scheme would introduce a system of 'permits' issued to local operators and those regularly delivering or collecting in the area. Permit holders would be exempt from the weight restrictions in the area as would be holders of bona-fide delivery/collection notes who may occasionally have to enter the area. The area would be known as the 'Area of Exemption' (AoE). Details of the AoE and permits are presented on page 18 of this document.
- In consultation with affected communities, NSC to establish and publish monthly reports on progress towards targets for reducing both traffic congestion in the BATS villages and excessive Nitrogen Dioxide pollution in Banwell.
- All BATS area villages are united in opposition to continued shortcutting and in support of 7.5t weight restrictions. This represents a win-win proposal for NSC and BATS-area residents.